

(CIA LETTERHEAD)

1 October 1973

Mr. Donald L. Batkins
Computer Institute for Social Science
Research
515 Computer Center
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Dear Mr. Batkins:

Your letter of 20 September indicates there is some confusion about the status of various data banks associated with this Agency. Perhaps the best approach would be to describe each of them.

Dahlgren File - Created in 1963 by A. V. Hershey at the Dahlgren Naval Weapons Laboratory, this data base contains 8,200 points describing World coastlines. This is File 9 on the CAM Program Tape.

World Data Bank I (WDB I) - Created in 1966 by CIA, WDB I contains about 100,000 points describing World coastlines and international boundaries. It was sent to the Department of Geography at Michigan State in 1971. A second version of WDB I with minor corrections and modifications has recently been released for public sale to the National Technical Information Service (NTIS); this file operates with an updated version of CAM. The Laboratory for Computer Graphics and Spatial Analysis at Harvard has a Defense Department contract to convert this file into polygons representing World political units. Nick Chrisman is the project officer.

World Data Bank II (WDB II) - This is a three-year CIA effort begun in 1972. The average scale will be 1:3,000,000 and contents will include coastlines, international boundaries, and major drainage in addition to some transportation and some internal boundaries. The file will not be released for public use until it has been completed and operationally tested. This is not likely before 1975.

With regard to Chinese political subdivisions, we are unaware of any available data bank.

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Professor Wittick and enclose a copy of the latest NTIS release for your information.

Please convey my best wishes to Ian Matley and Larry Sommers.

Sincerely,

STATINTL

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director
Basic and Geographic Intelligence

Enclosure:
NTIS release

cc: Professor Wittick
East Lansing, Michigan

Distribution:

O - Addressee
1 - Professor Wittick
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